

bill. You are right. You have offered very substantial arguments. All I did...all I did was point out a couple realities. One of those realities is, when the probate code was originally passed there was an agreement or understanding that caused that bill to be passed that set this system of publication in, put it in the papers. I also pointed out the other reality, the reality that the news media seems to think this is a very very beneficial system because, according to them, this informs the public. Those were the arguments I offered. Take it from there.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce some five seniors from Senator Murphy's District, up here in the north balcony from Winside High School with Jim Halferty, their teacher. Would they stand and be recognized, and the Legislature can recognize the Winside seniors up here. Welcome to your Legislature. We will now proceed with...the Chair recognizes Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, in many respects I am a little like Senator Beutler who expected this measure to move through the Legislature relatively easily the last time it was up, only to discover with some dismay that it did not advance at all. Obviously, what is involved here is a small portion of the economic livelihood of newspapers in Nebraska, and again this attempt to keep estates paying notices that everyone virtually agrees are not necessary is a shakedown, an absolute unmitigated shakedown. When I was a boy I used to read in the papers about racketeers in Chicago and New York City who told business people that they wouldn't break their windows for a tribute. If they received some money, then they wouldn't break the windows or damage the stores, or what have you, and I learned the meaning of shakedown. This kind of legislation is equally a shakedown. Consumers are being ripped off by having to pay through their estates for unnecessary needless publication costs. Now Senator DeCamp brings out the point that several years ago when the Nebraska probate code passed this body a bargain was struck. A bargain was struck with the newspaper industry that they would, in effect, support the bill if we would allow in the bill for some needless publication notices. That was a shakedown at the time. How long are we going to continue to be blackmailed into providing an industry a free ride at the expense of the estates in Nebraska? We continually rail about overregulation by government. We say that overregulation by government costs consumers and producers too much money. Publication costs... needless publications and needless publication costs are an example of overregulation by government. We have here an